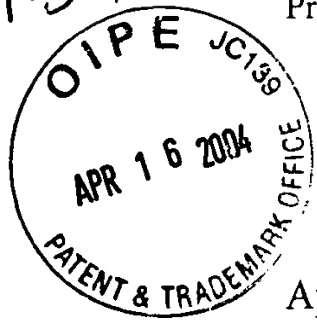


Image

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Navy Case No. 82,627
Preliminary Amendment



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. No. : 09/656,017 CONFIRMATION NO. 2288
Applicants : Louis F. Aprigliano et al.
Filed: : Sept. 7, 2000
TC/A.U. : 1725
Examiner : Kuang Y. Lin

Docket No. : 82,627
Customer No. : 000038092

APPEAL NO. : 2004-0769

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR Section 1.293(b)(3) the application is being amended to comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112 as stated in the Final Office action mailed July 30, 2002 as follows:

Amendment to the Claim is reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks being on page 3 of this paper.